

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, cancel the title in the first line.

Page 1, please insert the following new paragraph before paragraph 1 as follow:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This is a national phase application in the U.S. based on international application No. PCT/FR2003/000921 first filed on March 24, 2003 and for which priority is claimed.

Page 1, before paragraph 1, please insert the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION".

Page 2, before paragraph 7, please insert the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION".

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Page <sup>4</sup>/<sub>3</sub>, before paragraph 13, please insert the heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS".

Page 4, please replace paragraph 13 with the following paragraph:

~~Other particular features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of a nonlimiting exemplary embodiment, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:~~

- figure 1 is a diagrammatic side view of a cable stayed bridge to which the invention may be applied;
- figure 2 is a diagrammatic view, in longitudinal section, of a part of a stay cable according to the invention; and
- figures 3 to 5 are cross-sectional views of this stay cable, taken respectively along the planes III-III, IV-IV and V-V indicated in figure 2.

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Page <sup>4</sup>/<sub>3</sub>, before paragraph 14, please insert the heading "DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS".